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**TO:** Douglas Wood **DATE:** July 29, 2003  
**FIRM:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office **FAX NO:** (703) 308-6916  
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**FROM:** Sheryl L. Sandridge for Ronald  
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**MESSAGE:**

**RE:** Serial No. 09/838,863  
Inventor: Mattar Neto et al.  
Filed: April 20, 2001  
Group Art Unit 3761  
Our Ref. No. 70317.1200

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on this date, July 29, 2003.

Sheryl L. Sandridge  
Name (print)

[Signature]  
Signature

7/29/03  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	Mattar Neto, et al.	Examiner:	Weiss
Title:	Secretion Suctioning Device and Kit for Intubated Patients	Serial No.:	09/838,863
Filed:	April 20, 2001	Group Art Unit:	3761
Ref. No.:	70317.1200		

**AMENDMENT**

TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

On April 11, 2003, Application filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3) to accept a claim of priority delayed unintentionally. Applicant respectfully submits this Amendment in connection with that Petition in order to properly claim priority to the prior-filed applications under 35 U.S.C. § 365(c). Applicant believes no fees are due in connection with this Amendment, but authorizes any fees to be charged to Hughes Hubbard & Reed Deposit Account No. 08-3264.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: